

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-6 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yiannoulos in view of Xie in further view of Xiao. Applicant traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Applicant submits that none of the references discloses or suggests an analog reference voltage generating means and a selecting means of amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 now recites the analog reference voltage generating means having first to third reference voltage generators for generating first to third analog reference voltages according to the first to third color pixels, wherein each one of the analog reference voltages has a different value and a different decline rate from the other analog reference voltages, and the selecting means, in response to a select control signal, for selecting one of two analog reference voltages, which are inputted based on the two color pixels in the column pixel array, corresponding to two of the first to third color pixels included in the column pixel array.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Xiao's selecting means could be used as the selecting means of the claimed invention in combination with Yiannoulos and Bayer. Applicant does

not agree with the Examiner's statement. It is submitted that none of the references discloses or suggests the analog reference voltage generating means having first to third reference voltage generators. Xiao merely discloses a ramp generator 22 generating ramp1 27 and ramp2 28. As Xiao merely discloses one ramp generator 22 generating two ramp signals, as opposed to the claimed invention which calls for three reference voltage generators generating respective reference voltages, it is believed that even if Xiao could be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the invention recited in claim 1 would still not be anticipated or obvious. The ordinary artisan would never envision that the structure recited in claim 1 would be advantageous or desirable.

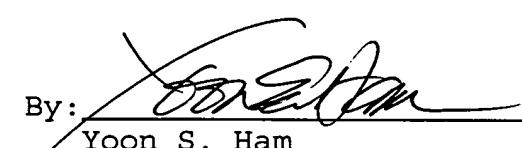
Further, the selecting means of the claimed invention selects one of two analog reference voltages, which are inputted based on the two color pixels in the column pixel array, corresponding to two of the first to third color pixels included in the column pixel array, in response to a select control signal, as illustrated in Fig. 4. The references cited by the Examiner clearly fail to disclose or suggest the claimed structure.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 are not made obvious over Yiannoulos in view of Xie in further view of Xiao under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 are now in condition for

allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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